



**International
Standard**

ISO 16830

**Specification of bamboo
drinking straws**

Spécifications des pailles en bambou

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 296, *Bamboo and rattan*.

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Introduction

More than 70 % of plastic products accumulate in landfills or are sloughed off in the natural environment as litter. As a result, this plastic can end up in the ocean and have a detrimental impact on the ecosystem. Plastic straws are one of the most widely used plastic products. For example, half a billion plastic straws are used and discarded every day by people in the United States alone.^[4] In recent years, bans and restrictions on single-use plastics have come into force across the globe. Plastic straws have been singled out for bans as a result of the specific environmental problem they pose. Small, light and non-biodegradable plastic straws can easily be swept into the ocean and break down into microplastic particles. They can also be consumed by fish, seabirds and marine mammals, causing them harm and, in the case of fish, entering the food chain for humans.

Owing to its fast growth, short rotation, and high mechanical strength, bamboo is a very abundant renewable and biodegradable natural resource. The use of bamboo straws can help to alleviate the global pollution caused by plastic straw, and also provide significant economic, social, and ecological benefits. The low cost of bamboo straws manufactured with new technologies has a strong market competitiveness. This document has been developed to address the need for a standard on bamboo drinking straws, promote their use, and to contribute to the protection of the environment.

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